

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reexamination of the present application. Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 have been amended, Claim 2 has been cancelled and new Claims 27-31 have been added.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement that the inventorship of the application has been changed by the deletion of Yashudie Ito and Yoshiki Nakano.

The Examiner states that the title of the invention is not descriptive. Therefore, Applicants have amended the title as requested by the Examiner.

As requested by the Examiner, Applicants have checked the specification and corrected several minor errors contained therein. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a), stating that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the Claims. Specifically, the Examiner has objected to several elements recited in Claims 5, 6, 7 and 8 that the Examiner states are not shown in the figures. The Examiner has also requested corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d) in reply to the Office Action.

Applicants have amended Claims 5, 6, 7 and 8 to delete the subject matter objected to by the Examiner. Therefore, removal of this objection to the drawings is requested. It is not believed that corrected drawing sheets are therefore necessary in response to this Office Action.

Relatedly, the Examiner has rejected Claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Since these features have been deleted from these claims, removal of this rejection is requested.

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner states that Claims 5-8 recite "if" limitations which do not positively recite structural claim limitations and therefore no patentable weight has been given to the limitations. These features have been deleted from Claims 5-8 and removal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cros et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,891,304) and Kao (U.S. Patent No. 5,252,599). Claims 6 and 7 have similarly been rejected under U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cros et al., Kao, and further in view of Kanbe et al. (Japanese Publication 58-215965).

The Examiner states that Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this regard, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitation of allowable Claim 2. Therefore, removal of this rejection with respect to Claim 1 is requested. Claims 4-8 depend upon Claim 1 and include all the limitations thereof. Therefore, removal of this rejection with respect to these dependent claims is also requested.

Further, the Examiner has objected to Claim 3 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but states that Claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten Claim 3 in independent form, and it is submitted that this claim is also now in condition for allowance.


Applicants have also added new Claims 27-31, which depend upon Claim 3. These new Claims 27-31 approximately correspond to Claims 4-8, which depend upon independent Claim 1. Therefore, it is submitted that these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due with the filing of this Response. However, if any fees are due, please debit those fees from Deposit Account No. 50-1419.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecute and or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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